
Title: Comprehensive Gargish, vol. 1 intro

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Chapter One :Intro

Gargoyle is a Common corruption of gargl, the Gargoyles' name for themselves and their language. An informal word for gargl as the name of the Gargoyle language is Gargish. Spoken Gargish is grammatically rather felxible. Distinctions between nouns, adjectives, and verbs are indicated by gestures and intonations. This flexibility is also apparent in the names of magic spells derived from Gargish phrases. Vas Sanct Lor, for instance is drerived from the Gargish Vas Saengkt Lor, but it is equally correct to say saengkt lor, or even lor saengkt vas. Gargoyles tend to omit words they consider to be uncecessary complications, like pronouns, and they often speak in infinitives. While a Human attempting to speak Gargish might come up with something like 'i est ker i le vid u prae'-'I'm certain that I've seen you before', a Gargoyle would simply say 'ker le vid prae' (or more

idomatically, ker prae
 vid le) "to be certain
 having seen before".
 With practice, it's
 possible to deduce the
 implied pronouns in a
 Gargoyle sentence, but
 it's not always easy.
 Unlike spoken
 Gargish, the written
 language has no way to
 mark the intonations
 and gestures that
 make the speech
 intelligible, so there
 are suffixes that
 mark words as being
 verbs, nouns,
 adjectives, and also
 indicate the tense and
 aspect of verbs. In
 many cases, these are
 words which are
 meaningful by
 themselves, such as
 the adjectival suffix
 -de , which means
 "of" in isolation. Here
 is a list of the most
 common
 suffixes:-char "part"
 (names a tool used for
 doing a certain action,
 such as agrachar
 "weapon"-de
 "of"(marks adjectives
 or adverbs formed
 from nouns, verbs,
 and other words)-ku
 "with" (forms
 adjectives, such as
 mirku:watery-le
 "end"(marks the past
 tense or perfective
 aspect of
 verbs.)-lem"one"(simi
 lar to english -er, as
 in baker, writer
 etc.)-re"begin"(marks
 future tense of
 verbs)-sa"able"(simila
 r to english -able,
 -ible)-tas"quality"(ma
 rks abstract nouns,
 such as amotas"love"
 vs. amo"to
 love")-te"in"(marks
 present tense or

imperfective aspect of verbs)-ve"like"(forms adjectives, such as misve"similar"

Chapter Two:Names

Most Gargoyles have names that describe their profession.

Lensmaker

"Lorrelinlem" is an example of that type of name. Other names are meaningful, like Behlem "Just One". But many gargoyles, particularly the elite, have names which are meaningless in themselves, like Draxinusom. A number of these names are listed in the vocabulary.

Chapter Three: Writing

Gargoyles have an alphabet of 30 characters, arranged in a 5x6 pattern.

Similar sounds are grouped together by rows and columns.

For instance, the first row, transcribed as p b m f v u, represents the sounds produced by the lips, and the sounds in the first column are all voiceless stops. (the remaining rows are t d n s z e, ch j ny sh zh i, kl gl nl hl l o, and k g ng h r a.) The letter u also serves to represent w at the beginning of a syllable when followed by a vowel. The sequence k-u is sometimes

pronounced ku, as in
kuante, but more
frequently
kw(traditionally
transcribed as qu), as
in quas. Three of the
letters (ny, nl and hl)
serve only to complete
the chart, and are not
found in
contemporary spoken
Gargish, a relic of
Ancient Gargish. The
Gargish language has
long and short vowels.
They are not normally
distinguished in
spelling, except
where this would
cause confusion. For
example, uus means
"up". but us means
"diligence". In this
document, long vowels
are marked with an
accent: us vs. u'us,
su'm vs. summ.

Chapter Four: Samples

Here are a few
samples of Gargish
sentences translated
literally, then into
more idiomatic
English.

1. Teresta sit lem
antenda no'm.

place-that lie ones
not-have-of name.

Here lie those that had
no names.

2. Estati'm i' perle
lorrel re inwislör
ko'dex ad quad.

that-time I used
light-change begin
make-know-light
codex upon cube.
Then I used the lens to
form an image of the
codex upon the cube.

3. A'nte esta terreg
ma'ni'te mu'r ani'sh

zen.

In that place-home
living number strange
creature.

In that land live many
strange creatures.

4. A qua lemmu'r
wiste, an zen anku vol
verde wi's.

but what
ones-number
knowing, not creature
not -with wing true
of knowledge.
But as everyone
knows, no creature
without wings is
truly intelligent.

5. A'nte ko'dex skri'le
pri' ben esh ver res
qui' quae.
in codex written one
well and ture answer
any problem

within the codex is
written the one right
and true answer to
any problem.

6. Anvolde lem ansa
lo'k, esh anten ski'tas
de volde lem.

not-wings-of ones
not-can speak, and
not-have know-ness
of wing-of ones.
The wingless ones
cannot speak, and lack
the intelligence of the
winged ones.

7. Tu' rete ku kli' axi:
u'n, or, esh us.

All beginning with
three principle:
control, passion, and
diligence.

All begins with the
three principles:...

8. Ita anai de axi
vidu'kte trak semde
bentas, ord.

thus not-there is of
principle see-guiding
toward seven of
quality, order.
thus the absence of
all the principles
points toward teh
seventh virtue, Order.

Thus completes
Volume One. Volume
Two begins the
dictionary of Gargish.

About the Author:
Ben-Tas Dragon, was
born Bentley Tristan
though his father a
scholar took his
family to live with the
Garg peoples early in
his life where he was
exposed to the
Gargoyle language and
culture. His name
Bentley was turned
into Ben-tas the Garg
word for virtue
because it sounded
similar.

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